
Basic Education Program

The Background:

Tennessee Code Annotated 49-1-302(a)(4)(A) requires that any changes to the Basic Education Program formula approved by the Board be approved by the Commissioners of Education and Finance and Administration. Those changes must then, according to Tenn. Code Ann. 49-3-351, be submitted to the Senate and House Education Committees for review and recommendation. Finally, to become effective, the changes — as a whole, without amendment — must be approved by resolutions of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The budget contains a recommended improvement of \$18 million in the “at-risk” component of the BEP formula. This improvement will result in an estimated funding ration of 30% of K-12 ADM for “at-risk” students.

The budget contains a recommended improvement of \$2 million in the ELL (English Language Learner) components of the BEP formula. This improvement will result in an estimated improvement in the ELL pupil / teacher ratio from 50:1 to 45:1 for ELL teachers and an estimated improvement from 500:1 to 450:1 for ELL translators.

The Recommendation:

The SBE staff recommends adoption of the changes on final reading.